

Over Prisoners' Release

Castro OKs Talks With U2 Attorney

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James B. Donovan, the New York attorney who helped free U-2 pilot Gary Francis Powers, will go to Havana next week for talks with Fidel Castro which he hopes will lead to the release of 1,112 invasion prisoners.

The Herald learned Friday night that Donovan, who recently became general counsel for the Cuban Prisoners Families Committee, had been "cleared" by the Cuban Foreign Ministry for the trip.

He will meet personally with Castro, The Herald's sources said, "and complete preliminary work for the release of the entire Brigade as soon as possible."

Only six of the original 1,178 prisoners have met the ransom demands made by the Cuban premier. Sixty others, all of them wounded or sick, are in this country "on credit," and the 1,112 still held are described as in "poor condition" in El Principe prison at Havana.

Donovan, a former wartime counsel of the Office of Strategic Services, broke into the news in 1960 when he was court-appointed defense attorney for Rudolf Abel, a convicted Soviet spy.

With the approval of the Justice Department at Washington, Donovan went to East

Berlin in early 1962 to explore the possibilities for an exchange of Abel for Powers, and was the key figure in the consummation of the deal which brought the American pilot back to this country.

Donovan volunteered his services to the Cuban Families Committee after it appealed to him to use his experience in international exchanges to gain release for the men captured after the April 17, 1961 invasion of Cuba.